

# Project Proposal

**Proposal Title:** Boulder Creek Dixie Harrow

**Proposal Number:** 1429

**DWR Region:** Southeastern Region

**Lead Agency:** NRCS

**County:** San Juan

**Project Manager:** Kyle Wheeler

**PM Phone:** 4356370041

**Regional Priority:** Within Focus Area

**Project Type:** Terrestrial Habitat

**Proposed Start Date:**

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**Project Location:** Approximately 8 miles north-east of Monticello

**Project Description:** Dixie harrow one-way, then drill seed using a rangeland drill and seed provided by (GBRC), and then spray Plateau Herbicide on 140 acres of sagebrush with very little understory.

**Description of Problem/Need:** The area is in the Conservation area (CA) as described in the San Juan County Gunnison Sage-grouse conservation plan. The San Juan County Gunnison Sage-grouse plan states that in 1972 the sage grouse population in San Juan County was estimated to be between 583 and 1,050 birds and in 2002 the population was estimated to be between 178 and 308 birds. The desired conditions for nesting sites and early brood rearing areas in the conservation plan include a canopy cover of 20-40% big sagebrush with an average height of 16 inches, 30% minimum grass canopy cover, and 10% minimum forb canopy cover. The Conservation plan additionally states, "the increase in big sagebrush canopy in other areas may have resulted in a reduction in the quality and quantity of residual herbaceous cover that is important for sage grouse production and survival. Residual herbaceous cover (grasses and forbs) in sagebrush areas is necessary to conceal nests and nesting hens, broods, and provide habitat for insects upon which the chicks depend." The area is shrubsteppe habitat. Black sagebrush is dominant with very few grasses and forbs in the understory. Also, with the exception of black sagebrush; the area provides very little ground cover for nesting and brooding Sage-grouse. A treatment is needed to increase grass and forb diversity and bare ground cover. This will improve winter and brooding habitat needed by the Gunnison Sage-grouse.

**Objectives:** 1) Improve Sage-grouse habitat quality and vegetation cover, by restoring grasses and forbs into the understory. 2) Create better nesting and brood rearing habitat for Gunnison Sage-grouse. 3) Integrating weed management with grouse needs. 4) Developing and using sound grazing management practices. This will include resting the area from April-July during Sage grouse nesting and brood rearing seasons.

**Relevance to Strategic Plans:** The area habitat is shrubsteppe. This is a key habitat within the Utah (WAP). The Gunnison Sage-grouse is a tier 1 species in the Utah (WAP). This habitat is crucial brooding and winter habitat for the Gunnison sagegrouse. The Mule Deer is a tier 3 species in the Utah (WAP). This habitat is crucial winter habitat for mule deer. The area is in the conservation area described in the San Juan County Gunnison Sage-grouse Conservation Plan.

**Potential Risks:** None

**Proposed Methods:** This project will use a Dixie harrow one-way in a mosaic pattern to thin the black sagebrush in the area and leave the small patches of big sagebrush. Then use a rangeland drill in the treated area to seed grasses and forbs. After the harrow and drill, spray Plateau Herbicide to prevent the increase of cheatgrass to the area. This will increase and improve the herbaceous diversity of the area and will improve nesting and brooding habitat cover for Sage- grouse.

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**Shapefile Name:** HPD 2010\GIS Shape Files - Proposals\SER\1429.shp

**Seed Source:**

**UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:**

**Proposed  
NEPA Action:**

**Proposed  
Arch Action:**

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring**      ☒ **Wildlife Monitoring**

**Monitoring Information:** A possible range trend site. Photo points will be established and monitored yearly for three years.

**Grazing Management:** The area will be rested for two years upon completion of the project. The NRCS Monticello office will develop a grazing plan. The plan will include that the area will not be used from April-July, which are crucial months for nesting and brood rearing

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**SPECIES BENEFITING**

# Project Proposal

Elk

## Gunnison Sage-grouse

## Mule Deer

## LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
Private	140
<b>Total</b>	140

## PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
DNR Watershed (FY10)	\$14,150.00		\$0.00
NRCS	\$25,085.00		\$0.00
Private	\$22,005.00		\$0.00
ESMF Sage-grouse	\$5,000.00		\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$66,240.00</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

## PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Personal Services	Personal time, labor and equipment	\$0.00	\$4,200.00
Materials and Supplies	Well, fence, trough, solar system, contract servic	\$0.00	\$17,805.00
Materials and Supplies	Well, fence, trough, solar system, contract servic	\$0.00	\$17,805.00
Contractual Services	Dixie harrow	\$0.00	\$2,800.00
Contractual Services	Dixie harrow, pilot and plane	\$5,600.00	\$0.00
Seed (GBRC)	140 acres @ \$80.00/acre	\$11,200.00	\$0.00
Materials and Supplies	Plateau spray	\$2,350.00	\$0.00
Archaeological Survey	will be done by NRCS	\$0.00	\$4,480.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$19,150.00</b>	<b>\$47,090.00</b>

## Project Map: